News-Item "In the Face of Bio-Terror, Government Talks of More Action Plan"

36. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ""In the face of bio-terror, Government talks of more action plan", which appeared in the Times of India dated 30th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the samples of the medicines tested by Government to face disaster and Anthrax; and

(c) the details of such samples found correct and the number of samples found fictitious and the action taken / proposed to be taken against the manufacturers to protect the public?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Drugs like ciprofloxin, doxycycline have been reported to be useful in treating anthrax. A large number of manufacturers and marketing these drugs. There is no general complaint about any spurious ciprofloxin or doxycycline. All State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a strict check on possible movement of any spurious / counterfeit drugs and guidelines to be adopted for focussed activity in this area has been circulated.

National Health Policy

37. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalizing a National Health Policy to ensure adequate standards of public health care;

(b) whether the policy aims at establishing a regulatory mechanism to provide facilities for diagnosis, treatment and infrastructure far extending medical services to all;

(c) whether the insurance scheme are to be introduced to cover all aspects of medical services; and

(d) if so, the details of this policy and the time-frame of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Draft of National Health Policy, 2001 has been prepared in consultation with Central Council for Health & Family Welfare which is the highest advisory body on health and family welfare having State Minister of Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education as members and various governmental and non-governmental organisation international funding agencies and eminent individuals. Comments received on the draft policy from Parliamentary Consultative Committee, Government Departments, States / UTs. Associations and Organisations, eminent individuals and public at large are being examined. Thereafter the draft shall be placed before the Cabinet for approval. Promotion of equity and larger resource notification are some of the instant objectives of the revised health policy which shall dwell upon all aspect related to health care including regulatory mechanisms for the private sector and health insurance.

Opening of Kargil Memorial Medical College in Delhi

38. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a Kargil Memorial Medcial College in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the project is being held up;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to start it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government has decided to start a new Medical College at Safdarjung Hospital by the name Indrasprastha Medical College. The project is not held up. Necessary formalities to start admission to the college are being completed.

Financial Assistance for Government Medical Colleges

39. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to extend financial assistance to improve the condition of Government Medical Colleges in the country;